Time for a Walk

Chapter 2

BY MIZUSAWA MEGUMI

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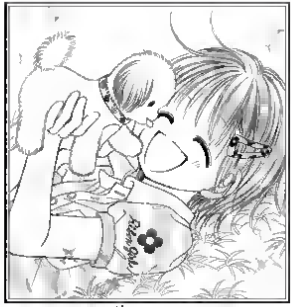

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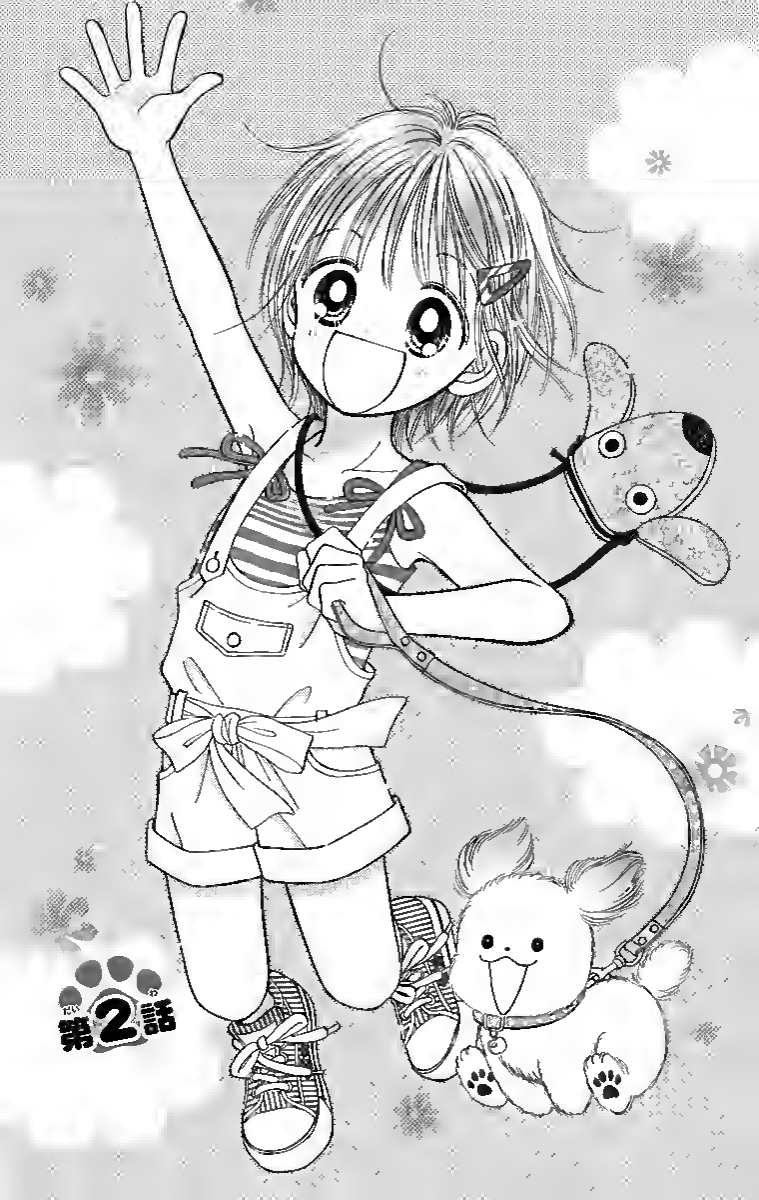
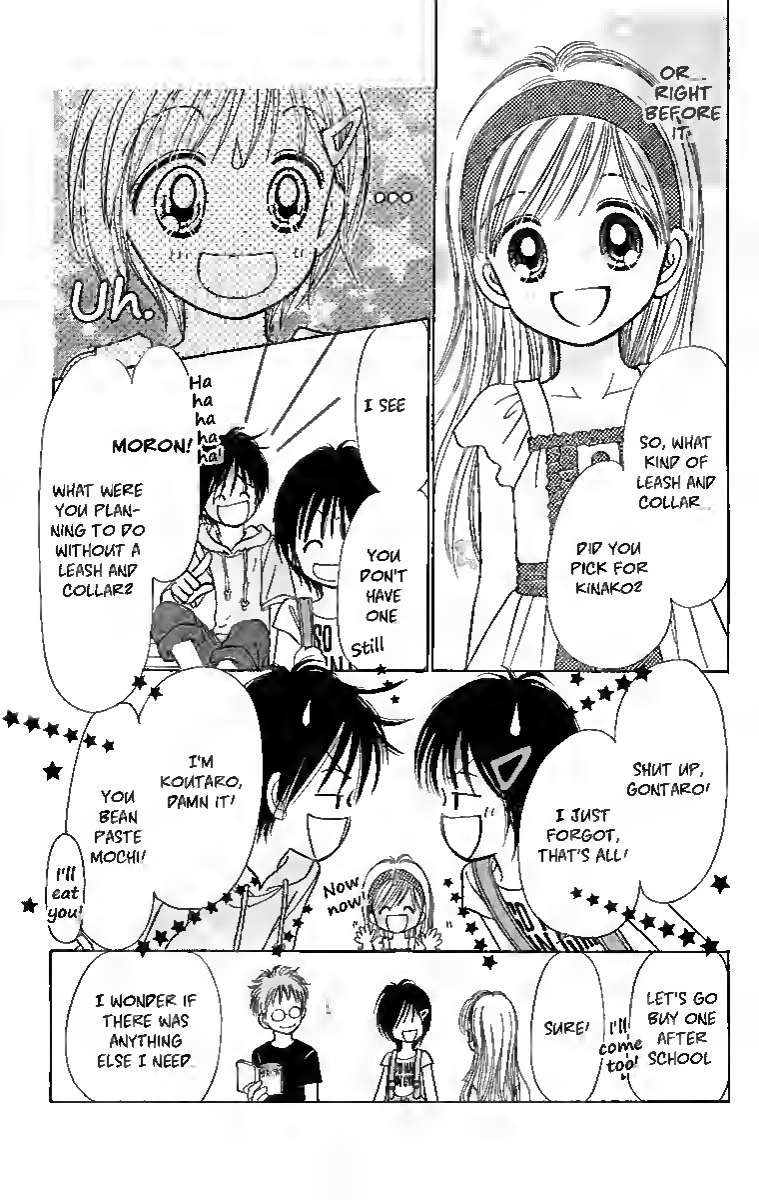

第2話

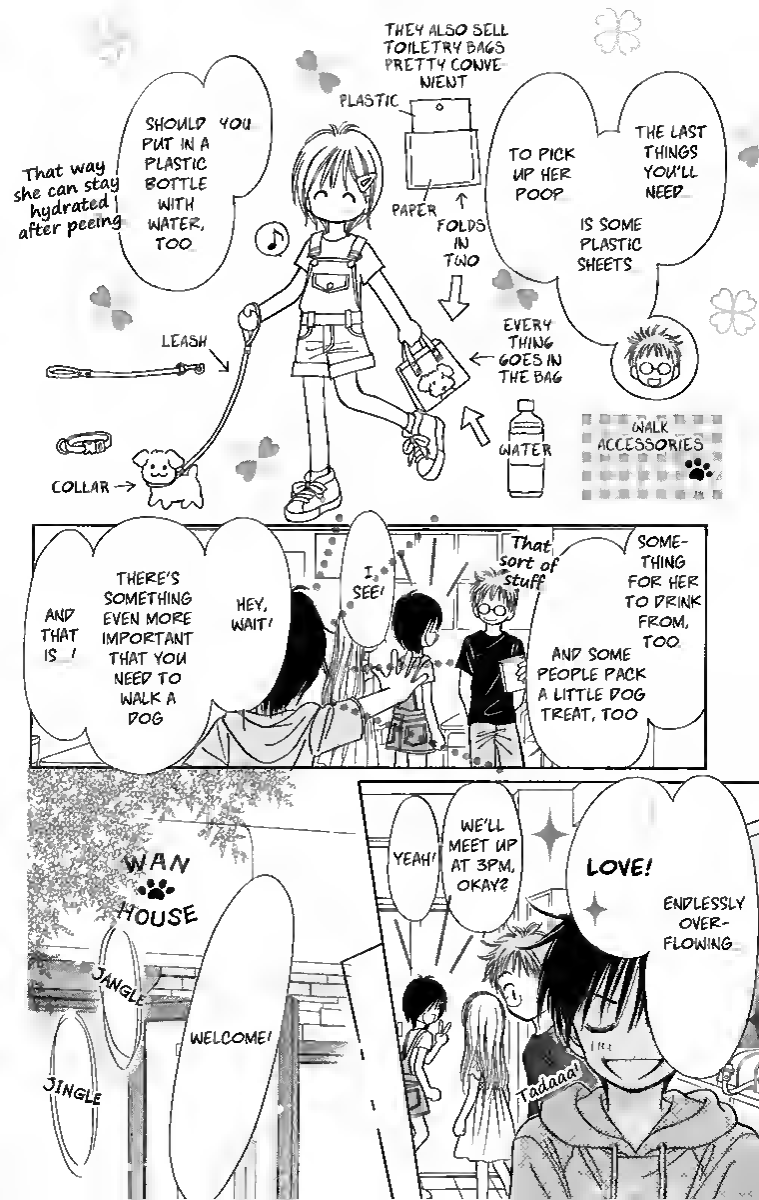
MY EDITOR ASKED ME, "WHY DON'T YOU DRAW A MANGA ABOUT DOGS?" MY RESPONSE WAS, "WHAT? IS THAT REALLY OKAY?!"

SINCE I STARTED RAISING DOGS A YEAR AGO, I WENT FROM NEVER EVEN HAVING SAID DOGS WERE CUTE TO FALLING DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH THEM. IT MUST BE BECAUSE I'D NEVER RAISED DOGS BEFORE.

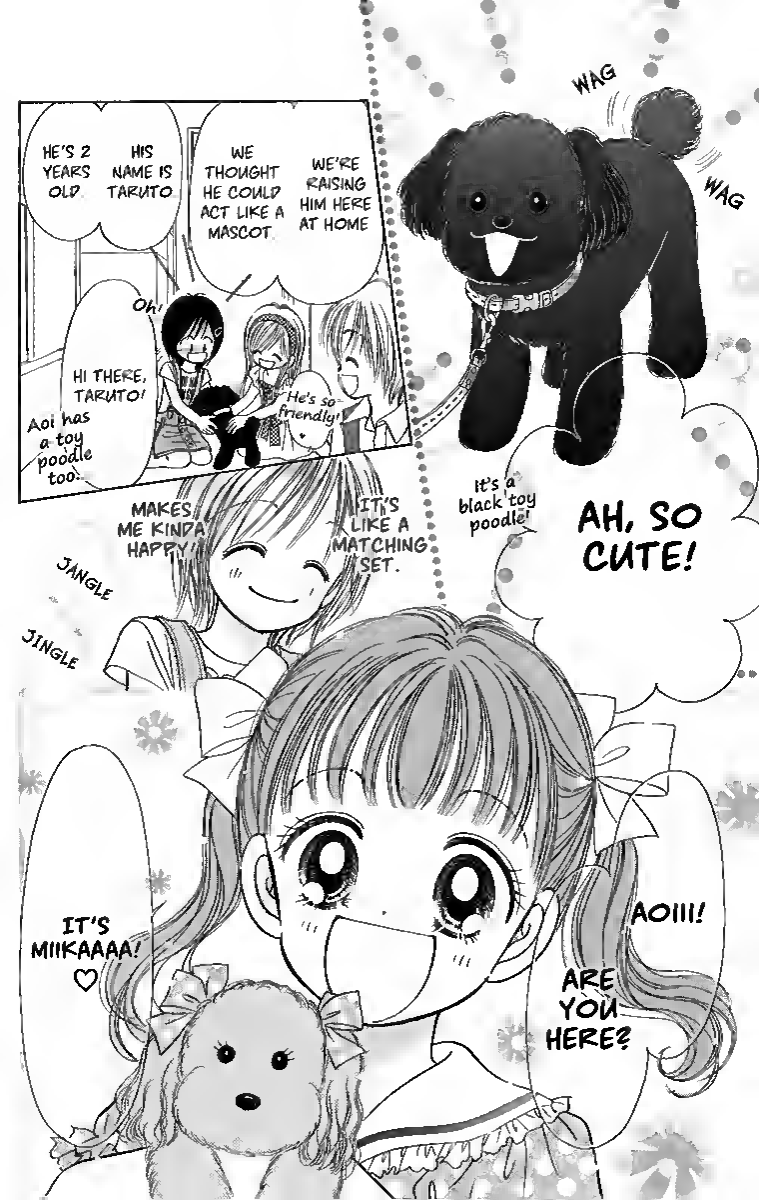
SPEAKING OF THE DOGS I'VE RAISED, THE FIRST ONE I GOT WAS REALLY SMALL, AND WHEN I FIRST GOT HER SHE DIDN'T EAT VERY MUCH. SHE'S ALSO A TOY POODLE, AN APRICOT-COLOURED FEMALE CALLED POOH. HER EARS ARE A DARKER COLOUR, SO SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE POOH THE BEAR.

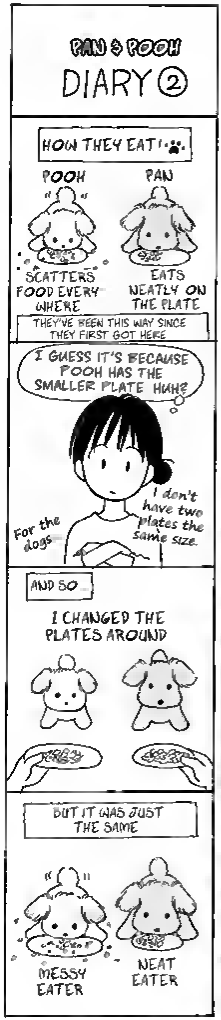
I ALSO HAVE A SECOND TOY POODLE, A DARK GREY MALE CALLED PAN.

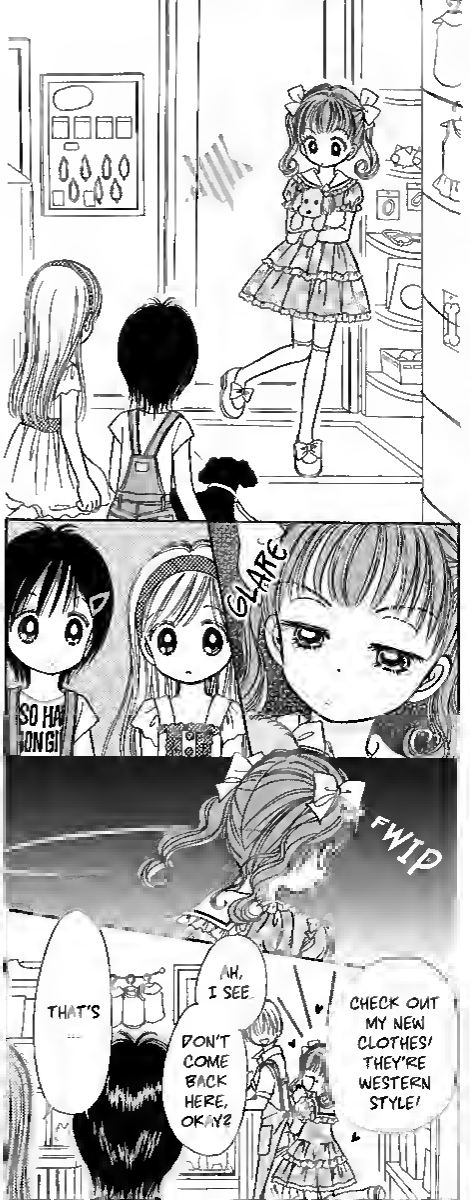

OR... RIGHT BEFORE IT.
SO, WHAT KIND OF LEASH AND COLLAR DID YOU PICK FOR KINAKO?
I SEE
YOU DON'T HAVE ONE
Still
Uh.
Ha ha ha ha ha!
MORON!
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITHOUT A LEASH AND COLLAR?
SHUT UP, GONTARO!
I JUST FORGOT, THAT'S ALL!
I'M KOUTARO, DAMN IT!
YOU BEAN PASTE MOCHI!
I'll eat you!
Now, now!
I WONDER IF THERE WAS ANYTHING ELSE I NEED
SURE!
I'll come too!
LET'S GO BUY ONE AFTER SCHOOL


THEY ALSO SELL TOILETRY BAGS PRETTY CONVENIENT
PLASTIC
PAPER
FOLDS IN TWO
SHOULD YOU PUT IN A PLASTIC BOTTLE WITH WATER, TOO
That way she can stay hydrated after peeing
THE LAST THINGS YOU'LL NEED IS SOME PLASTIC SHEETS
TO PICK UP HER POOP
LEASH
COLLAR
EVERY THING GOES IN THE BAG
WATER
WALK ACCESSORIES
HEY, WAIT!
I SEE!
That sort of stuff
SOMETHING FOR HER TO DRINK FROM, TOO
AND SOME PEOPLE PACK A LITTLE DOG TREAT, TOO
THERE'S SOMETHING EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT YOU NEED TO WALK A DOG
AND THAT IS...!
WAN HOUSE
JANGLE
JINGLE
WELCOME!
YEAH!
WE'LL MEET UP AT 3PM, OKAY?
LOVE!
ENDLESSLY OVER-FLOWING
Tadaaa!

AOI...
Oh,
HELLO!
WAN HOUSE
DID YOU NEED TO BUY SOME-THING?
Um,
AH YEAH
A COLLAR AND LEASH FOR KINAKO!
WHERE'S YOUR MOM TODAY?
SHE HAD AN ERRAND
The leashes are over here.
WITH THAT APRON ON,
HE LOOKS SO COOL
SINCE SCHOOL GETS OUT EARLY ON WEDNES-DAYS,
I HELP OUT AROUND THE STORE.
SO COOL
AOI'S SO SMART, HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT!
HE IS!


WAG
WAG
HE'S 2 YEARS OLD
HIS NAME IS TARUTO
WE THOUGHT HE COULD ACT LIKE A MASCOT
WE'RE RAISING HIM HERE AT HOME
Oh!
HI THERE, TARUTO!
He's so friendly!
Aoi has a toy poodle too.
It's a black toy poodle!
AH, SO CUTE!
MAKES ME KINDA HAPPY
IT'S LIKE A MATCHING SET.
JINGLE
JINGLE
IT'S MIIKAAAA! ♡
AOIII! ARE YOU HERE?

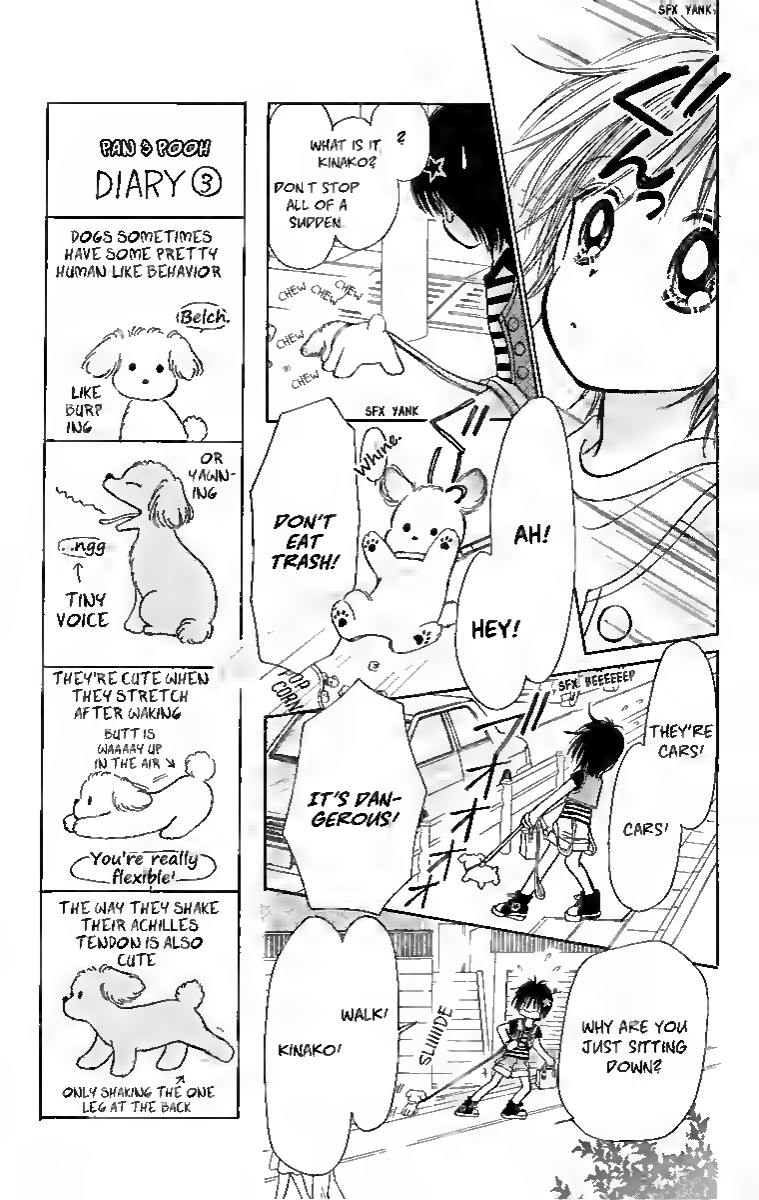

PAN & POOH
DIARY ②
HOW THEY EAT!
POOH
PAN
SCATTERS FOOD EVERY WHERE
EATS NEATLY ON THE PLATE
THEY'VE BEEN THIS WAY SINCE THEY FIRST GOT HERE
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE POOH HAS THE SMALLER PLATE HUH?
For the dogs
I don't have two plates the same size.
AND SO
I CHANGED THE PLATES AROUND
BUT IT WAS JUST THE SAME
MESSY EATER
NEAT EATER
Even on such a small plate...


GLARE
FWIP
CHECK OUT MY NEW CLOTHES! THEY'RE WESTERN STYLE!
AH, I SEE.
DON'T COME BACK HERE, OKAY?
THAT'S ...

SUCH A CUTE SILVER TOY POODLE!
Kinda scary
KOMATSUBARA FROM THE NEXT CLASS OVER!
SO HAPP BON GIRL
HEY
OH!
LOOK, I'LL GET THIS LEASH!
IT'S GOT POLKA-DOTS!
YOU'LL NEED THIS SIZE FOR KINAKO
I BET THIS COLOR WILL SUIT HER
IT'LL LOOK REALLY CUTE
GRIN
ドキっ
SFX: DU-DUMP

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
HEY!
HE MEANS KINAKO! COME ON!
HE MEANS THE DOG
Let's go on a walk together!
Aoiiii!!
AN, YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN
KOMA-TSUBARA IS GOING TO STEAL AOI AWAY
ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF HOW OFTEN YOU TALK TO HIM ABOUT KINAKO
BUT,
DO YOUR BEST, AN!

HUH?!
My best?!
I'LL BE CHEERING FOR YOUR VICTORY! ♡
Later
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KOTO ?!
HUH?
HUH?!
WOWWW!
I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED HERE!
?
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO, KINAKO!
IT'S TIME FOR A WALK!
THAT COLLAR IS SO PERFECT!
Cuuuute!


PAN & POOH
DIARY ③
DOGS SOMETIMES HAVE SOME PRETTY HUMAN LIKE BEHAVIOR
Belch.
LIKE BURP ING
OR YAWN-ING
..ngg
TINY VOICE
THEY'RE CUTE WHEN THEY STRETCH AFTER WAKING
BUTT IS WAAAAY UP IN THE AIR
You're really flexible!
THE WAY THEY SHAKE THEIR ACHILLES TENDON IS ALSO CUTE
ONLY SHAKING THE ONE LEG AT THE BACK
WHAT IS IT KINAKO?
DON'T STOP ALL OF A SUDDEN
CHEW CHEW CHEW CHEW CHEW
SFX YANK
SFX YANK
Whine
DON'T EAT TRASH!
AH!
HEY!
UP CORN
SFX BEEEEEEP
THEY'RE CARS!
CARS!
IT'S DANGEROUS!
WALK!
KINAKO!
SLUMP
WHY ARE YOU JUST SITTING DOWN?

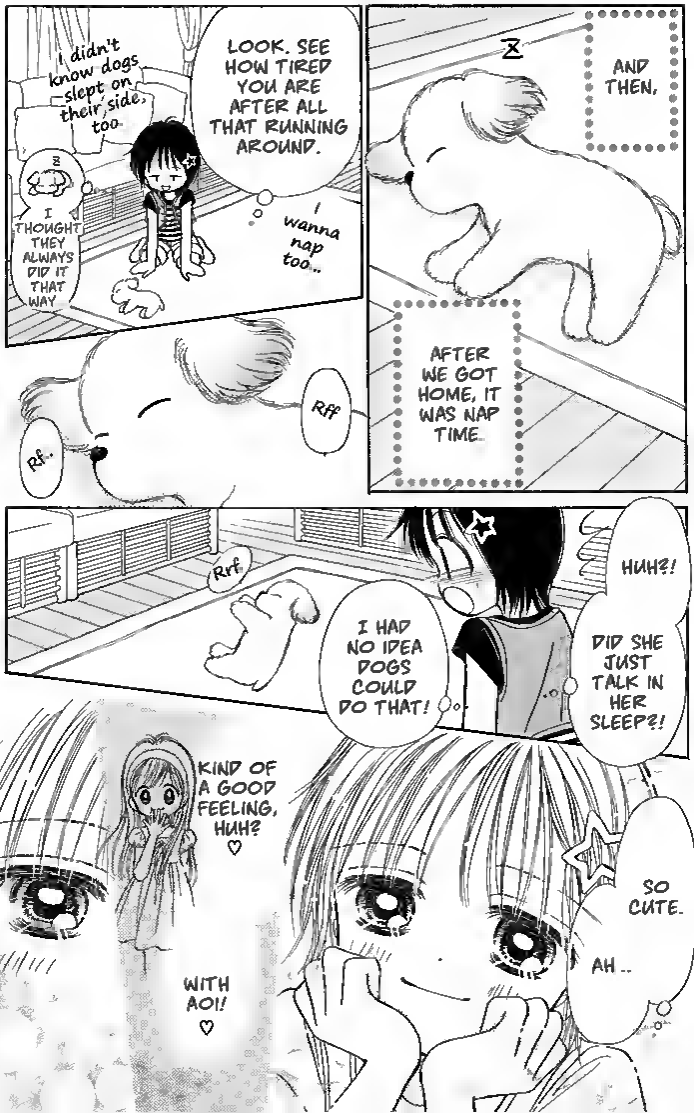
DOG STAR
YOU'RE SLOW!
BEAN PASTE!
OH, AN!
THERE SHE IS!
KINAKO IS A BIT HARDER TO WALK THAN I THOUGHT...
IT TOOK ME HALF AN HOUR TO WALK...
WHAT'S NORMALLY 5 MIN-UTES...
SFX PANT X2
WHAT'S WRONG?!
YOU LOOK REALLY TIRED!
S-SORR SORRY
YOU'RE DRENCHED IN SWEAT
せーはー
I'M READY TO STOP THE WALK AL-READY...
I wanna go home...
WELL, SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY HERE, LET'S GO!
WE'LL MATCH KINAKO'S PACE
SNIFF SNIFF
SNIFF SNIFF
SFX PANT X2

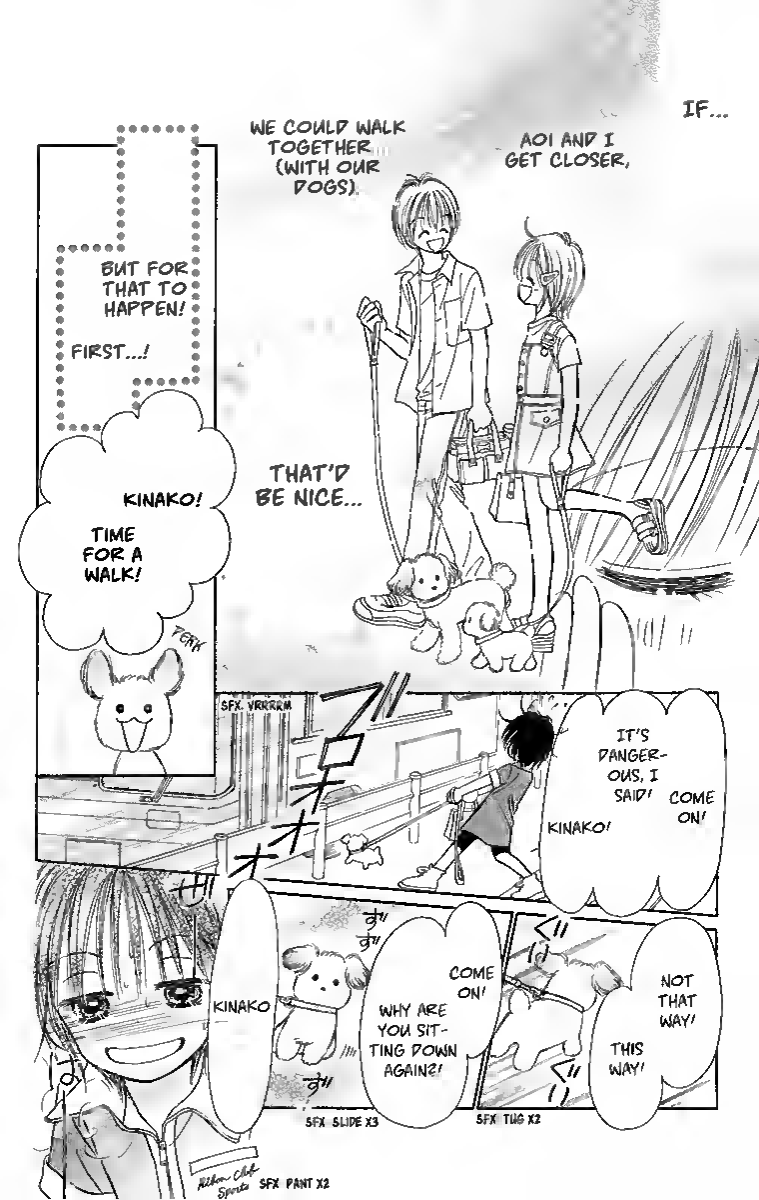
I THOUGHT DOGS WOULD JUST WALK BY THEMSELVES THAT SEEMS NORMAL, RIGHT?
BUT IT'S SO HARD IT'S LIKE I HAVE TO FORCE HER TO WALK
IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME
EVERYTHING SHE SEES IS BRAND NEW
ONCE SHE'S USED TO IT, SHE'LL WALK FINE
Kinako, not that way!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT WALKING WITH HER BUT YANKING ON HER LEASH AS SOON AS SHE GOES OFF
JUST TAKE YOUR TIME AND WALK SLOWLY, OKAY?
OH, LOOK, AN...
HUH?
YEAH
THANKS
Do your best!

OH, WHAT A COINCI-DENCE
IT'S AOI!
AND KOMATSU-BARA...
I SEE, YOU'RE WALKING KINAKO FOR THE FIRST TIME
YEAH, TODAY!
LOOK, KINAKO,
WHY DON'T YOU SAY HI TO YOUR FRIENDS?
You're all toy poodles.
かあああ——っ
LICK
LICK
LICK
LICK
LICK
LICK
AAAH!
SFX BLUSH

HMPH!
WHAT A SHAMELESS DOG!
IT'S JUST BECAUSE HE'S A DOG SHE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
SHE JUST KEEPS GOING!
SORRY! SORRY!
EEK! KINAKO!
HEY!
STOP THAT ALREADY!
LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK
WELL,
THEY SAY DOGS TAKE AFTER THEIR MASTERS, RIGHT?
KOMA-TSUBA-RA
Heh!
ISN'T THAT YOUR DOG?
LAZY
WIDE OPEN
RELAXED
VANILLA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
Eeeeek!
LET'S GO, HURRY!
COME ON, AOI!
VANILLA! WE'RE WALK-ING!
BYE!
SEE YOU!
LAZY
WIDE

WHAT?!
AN HEH HEH HEH,
KIND OF A GOOD FEELING, HUH? ♡
WITH AOI ♡
WH, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KOTO?
IT'S THE DOGS THAT HAVE THAT!
I WONDER
THEY DO SAY DOGS TAKE AFTER THEIR OWNERS...
GOOD LUCK, AN!
DON'T LOSE TO KOMA-TSUBARA MIKA!
KOTO-OOOO!
STOP DECIDING THIS CRAP BY YOUR-SELF!
Hey!
WE'RE GOING
COME ON!
AH, JEEZ!
WHY ARE YOU LYING AROUND ALL LAZY TOO?!
COME ON, WALK!
STUPID GON!
WHAT HAP-PENED TO "OVERFLOW-ING LOVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING"...?
SFX TUG X2


I didn't know dogs slept on their side, too.
LOOK. SEE HOW TIRED YOU ARE AFTER ALL THAT RUNNING AROUND.
I wanna nap too...
I THOUGHT THEY ALWAYS DID IT THAT WAY
AND THEN,
AFTER WE GOT HOME, IT WAS NAP TIME.
Rff.
Rff
Rrf.
I HAD NO IDEA DOGS COULD DO THAT!
HUH?!
DID SHE JUST TALK IN HER SLEEP?!
SO CUTE.
AH..
KIND OF A GOOD FEELING, HUH? ♡
WITH AOI! ♡


IF...
AOI AND I GET CLOSER,
WE COULD WALK TOGETHER (WITH OUR DOGS).
THAT'D BE NICE...
BUT FOR THAT TO HAPPEN!
FIRST...!
KINAKO! TIME FOR A WALK!
TCHK
SFX: VRRRRM
IT'S DANGER-OUS, I SAID! COME ON!
KINAKO!
KINAKO
COME ON! WHY ARE YOU SIT-TING DOWN AGAIN?!
NOT THAT WAY! THIS WAY!
SFX: SLIDE X3
SFX: TUG X2
SFX: PANT X2

WHEN YOU GO TO THE STYLIST, OF COURSE YOU HAVE TO COME BACK WITH A CUTE BANDANA OR ACCESSORY

SOMETIMES THEY MATCH TOO

MALE, BUT HAD FLOWERS PUT IN ANYWAY

IT'S REALLY FUN TO BE ABLE TO DO ALL THIS!

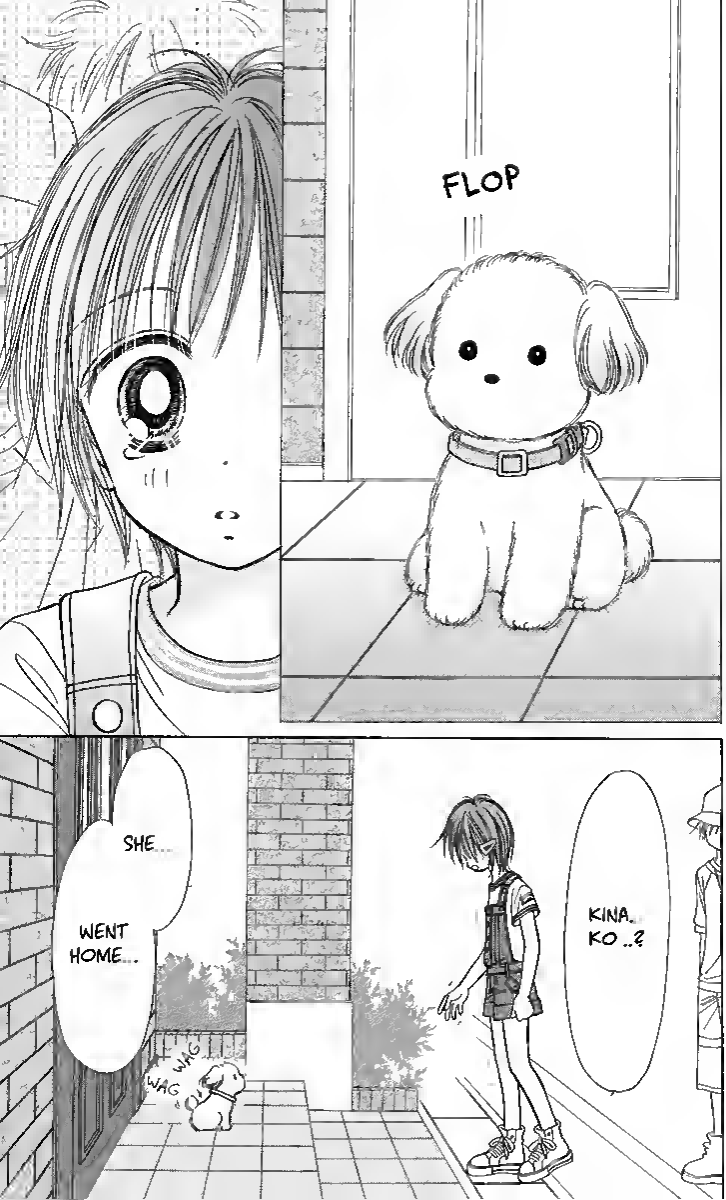
AOI...
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF SECRET TRAINING STILL!
HUH?!
BUT,
AH,
WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH US, AZUKI
Ha ha ha.
IT'S NOT REALLY SECRET ANY MORE, THOUGH
I GUESS SO...
Then I'll come along...
CLICK

SFX: ZOOM
KINAKO!

WHY?!
HOW DID SHE GET OFF HER LEASH LIKE THAT?!
KINAKO!
Did the post come loose?
AH
SORRY!
WATCH TARUTO FOR A SECOND!
AH
YEAH
Hey!
She's not on her leash!
That's dangerous
That's not good.
Ah!
NO WAY
...
THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED TO HAPPEN
KINAKO!
KINAKO!
I'M SURE SHE RAN IN THIS DIRECTION
SHE'S SMALL, SO SHE MIGHT BE HIDING IN THE LONG GRASS
WE HAVE TO LOOK CAREFULLY

SFX THROB
NO WAY... THAT CAN'T HAVE...!
KINAKO!
KINAKO!
KINAKO!
WHERE ARE YOU?!

WHAT HAPPENED, BEAN PASTE?!
KINAKO'S GONE MISSING OR SOMETHING?!
I WAS TAKING HER ON A WALK,
AND SHE JUST SLIPPED HER LEASH.
KINAKO...
WHAT IF SHE GOES OFF THE PATH AGAIN...?
DOG is BEST
HAPPY LIFE WITH DOGS
WHAT IF...
SHE'S FALLEN INTO THE POND OR SOMETHING?!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT?!
CALM DOWN, BEAN PASTE!
WE'LL LOOK TOO!
HEY, WAIT...
I'LL GO OVER HERE.
MAKOTO, CHECK THE OTHER SIDE!
KOU!
BEFORE THAT,
THERE'S ONE PLACE WE SHOULD LOOK.
DOG is BEST


FLOP
KINA-KO..?
SHE... WENT HOME...
WAG
WAG

WAG
WAG
WHY ?
BUT
SHE ALWAYS
SHE ALWAYS JUST GOES OFF
IN EVERY RANDOM DIRECTION
ALL OF A SUDDEN,
YOU
REMEMBERED
THE WAY ?
きゅうっ……
SFX HUG

THIS IS ALREADY KINAKO'S HOME
THAT MEANS...
IT'S...
AN IMPORTANT PLACE SHE WANTS TO BE...

ピンポーン
SFX DING DONG
KOMATSU-BARA ?
What is it?
ABOUT EARLIER
I DIDN'T THINK ALL THAT WOULD HAPPEN
I JUST WANTED HER TO WANDER OFF A LITTLE, IS ALL
WHAT?
I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D RUN OFF SO QUICKLY
I mean, she's so small.

I'M SO SORRY!
HERE!
I MADE THESE...
COOKIES!
BYE!
AND JUST SO YOU KNOW
I DIDN'T PUT ANY POISON IN THEM!
Hmph!

MIKA-MIKAAAA!
THE COOKIES WERE SO TASTY!
MIKA-MIKA, LET'S WALK TOGETHER NEXT TIME!
NO WAY!
AN
WHEN DID YOU START GETTING FRIENDLY WITH HER 2
WHO ARE YOU CALLING "MIKA-MIKA"?!
THAT SOUNDS DUMB. STOP CALLING ME THAT!
AND THEY WERE POODLE-SHAPED!
SO AMAZING! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE THOSE!
You're such a good cook!
IF I HADN'T GOTTEN A DOG,
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I MIGHT NEVER HAVE LEARNED
AND I'VE MET SO MANY PEOPLE,
AND HAD SO MANY STRONG FEELINGS...
KINAKO!
LET'S GO FOR A WALK!
WOOF

SPARKLE
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
WITH KINAKO,
MY WORLD...
You understood me!
Are you some kind of genius?!
Wow, Kinako!
Geh. SHE'S REALLY HERE THIS SUCKS!
AH, MIKA-MIKA!
KEEPS ON GETTING WIDER...

OSANPO NO JIKAN